

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Action

Control: 18354

NEA

Rec'd: OCTOBER 16, 1962

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Info

FROM: BEIRUT

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TO: Secretary of State

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SP

NO: 461, OCTOBER 26, 7 PM

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NIACT

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ACTION DEPARTMENT 461; INFORMATION USUN NIACT 42.

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POLICY

RMR

TRUST NOT NECESSARY STRESS DELICACY OF ANY PUBLIC STATEMENTS
WE MAKE RE LEBANESE REGISTERED SHIP REPORTEDLY NAMED MARUCLA
AND REPORTEDLY INTERCEPTED BY OUR NAVY.

LEBANON IS ONE ARAB COUNTRY WHOSE PUBLIC OPINION IS PREDOMINANTLY
WITH US. OFFICIALLY PRESIDENT CHEHAB ONLY THIS MORNING CONFIRMED
GOL DESIRE TO SUPPORT US ON CUBAN ISSUE (EMBTCL 459).
LEBS BASICALLY ARE OUR FRIENDS AND THEY BEING CRITICIZED FOR
THIS. HOPE CASE CAN BE HANDLED SO AS NOT RPT NOT TO GIVE THEIR
ENEMIES AND OURS AMMUNITION.

OUR INFO HERE SUGGESTS THAT SHIP IS PROBABLY OWNED BY COMPAGNIE
DE NAVIGATION ARCUL OF PANAMA. SHIP WAS FORMERLY NAMED CITY OF
SHREWBURY. LEBANESE REGISTRY IYKLDNE* OF CONVENIENCE ACCORDING
BEIRUT PORT CAPTAIN, THERE ARE ALMOST 200 SHIPS CARRYING LEB FLAG
OF CONVENIENCE AND 90 PER CENT OF THEM ARE PANAMANIAN
OWNED. HE SAYS MARUCULA MAY NEVER HAVE CALLED AT BEIRUT PORT.
HOPE DEPARTMENT OR USUN WILL MAINTAIN CLOSE TOUCH WITH
FONMIN TAKLA IN NEW YORK.

MEYER

MRJ

*AS RECEIVED

Note: Mr. Cohen (NFA-DC) notified 10/26/62-5:45 pm. EH

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